

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/032,886

Applicant(s)

BEROZ ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

A. Dexter Tugbang

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on August 4, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6,14-19 (renumbered as 1-12).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>attached herein</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ms. April M. Capati on August 17, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows.

Claims 1, 14 and 16 have been amended as follows.

1. (amended) A framed sheet for use in manufacturing a microelectronic component comprising:

(a) a frame having an aperture and a structure;

(b) a flexible sheet having oppositely-facing exterior surfaces and a first metallic layer at a first said exterior surface, a main region of said sheet extending across said aperture so that said sheet covers a substantially entire area of said aperture, said first exterior surface of said flexible sheet being bonded to said structure so that said frame holds said sheet in tension, said frame further having at least one contact opening extending through said structure, said sheet including at least one contact region aligned with said contact opening whereby said first metallic layer is exposed at said contact opening for engagement with an electrical contact during processing, the bond between the sheet and the structure including an inner bond region in the vicinity of said contact opening so that said inner bond region mechanically isolates the contact region from said

main region of said sheet, whereby engagement of said electrical contact with said contact region of said sheet will not cause deformation of said main region.

14. (amended) An article for use in manufacturing a microelectronic component comprising:

(a) a flexible sheet having oppositely-facing exterior surfaces; and

(b) a frame having an aperture and a structure, and having a mounting surface with inner edges bounding said aperture and outer edges remote from said aperture, said flexible sheet being bonded to said mounting surface so that said frame holds said sheet in tension and so that an exterior surface of said sheet is exposed through a center of said aperture, said sheet being sealed to said mounting surface over an entirety of said edges of said mounting surface.

16. (amended) An article for use in manufacturing a microelectronic component comprising:

(a) a flexible sheet having oppositely-facing exterior surfaces;

(b) a frame having an aperture and a structure, and having a mounting surface facing in a forward direction with an inner edge bounding said aperture, said structure including an inner edge surface intersecting said mounting surface at said inner edge and extending rearwardly away from said mounting surface, said flexible sheet being bonded to said mounting surface so that said frame holds said sheet in tension, so that a first exterior surface of said sheet overlies said mounting surface and so that said first exterior

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surface of said sheet is exposed through a center of said aperture, said sheet being sealed to said mounting surface at least along said inner edge of said mounting surface; and

(c) a fillet joining said first exterior surface of said sheet and said inner edge surface.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

The applicant(s) arguments filed in their response of March 9, 2006 are fully incorporated by reference herein.

The examiner adds the following remarks with respect to Bilsback (U.S. Patent 3,828,215 and Claims 14 and 16. While Bilsback does show a frame (e.g. 10) with an aperture, and a flexible sheet (e.g. 16). The flexible sheet is not exposed through the center of the aperture because Bilsback covers the aperture with a glass plate (e.g. 14). Therefore, Bilsback cannot meet the limitations of "said sheet is exposed through a center of said aperture" (lines 7-8 of Claim 14 above with similar limitations at line 10 of Claim 16 above).

Accordingly, Claims 1-6 and 14-19 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

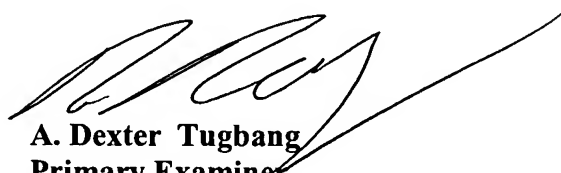
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3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to A. Dexter Tugbang whose telephone number is 571-272-4570.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Vo can be reached on 571-272-4690. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



A. Dexter Tugbang
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3729

August 17, 2006